

## ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to IR-sensitive compositions suitable for the manufacture of printing plates developable on-press. The IR-sensitive compositions comprise a first polymeric binder which does not comprise acidic groups having a pKa value  $\leq 8$ ; a second polymeric binder comprising polyether groups; an initiator system; and a free radical polymerizable system comprising at least one member selected from unsaturated free radical polymerizable monomers, free radical polymerizable oligomers and polymers containing C=C bonds in the back bone and/or in the side chain groups. The initiator system includes (i) at least one compound capable of absorbing IR radiation; (ii) at least one compound capable of producing radicals selected from polyhaloalkyl-substituted compounds; and (iii) at least one polycarboxylic acid of formula  $R^4-(CR^5R^6)_r-Y-CH_2COOH$ , wherein  $ox_i < red_{ii} + 1.6$  eV, where  $ox_i$  = oxidation potential of component (i) in eV, and  $red_{ii}$  = reduction potential of component (ii) in eV.

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